EXPRESS MAIL IN EV 03a 104 157 US

IN THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for making a three-dimensional decoy, comprising: photographing an animal to obtain an array of photographic views of the animal; arranging the array of photographic views to create a single, flattened photograph-based view of the animal; transferring the single, flattened photograph-based view to a screen; printing the view from the screen onto a polymeric sheet; providing a three-dimensional decoy mold; positioning the plastic sheet over the three-dimensional decoy mold; and heating and pressing the sheet with energy effective to soften the sheet so that the sheet takes the shape of the decoy mold.

- 2. The method of claim 1 and further including digitizing the array of photographic views.
- 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the polymeric sheet is a polyethylene sheet.
- 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the sheet is heated to a temperature of about 200°F.
- 5. The method of claim 1 and further including cooling the decoy formed sheet.
- 6. The method of claim 5 and further including removing the decoy formed sheet from the decoy mold.

- 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the flattened view is formed with computer aided design.
- 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the sheet is bonded to a mold comprised of a material such as Styrofoam.
- 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the sheet is formed about the mold with a vacuum.
- 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the flattened view is corrected to accommodate changes in sheet material such as stretching.
- 11. The method of claim 1 and further including embossing a surface of the polymeric sheet.
- 12. A decoy body formed by the method of claim 1.
- 13. A decoy comprising a flexible, three-dimensional main body, the main body illustrated with animal features having photographic detail.
- 14. The decoy of claim 13 wherein the animal features are printed features.
- 15. The decoy of claim 13 wherein a surface of the main body is embossed with animal features.
- 16. The decoy of claim 13 wherein the animal features are selected from a group consisting of ducks, geese, pheasants, deer, moose, antelope, squirrels and elk and similar animals.

- 17. The decoy of claim 18 wherein the animal features include the animal in a swimming position or the animal in a resting position.
- 18. A kit comprising a three-dimensional decoy main body that defines an orifice, the main body illustrated with animal features having photographic detail and a decoy head wherein the head terminates in a flange that is insertable in the orifice.
- 19. The kit of claim 18 and further including a plurality of heads with flanges insertable in the main body orifice.
- 20. The kit of claim 18 wherein the decoy is a duck or a goose decoy.

